### PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## **PCT**

# TRANSLATION INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

|   | t's or agent's file reference  3P14801WO                                       | FOR FURTHER ACTION   | N See                    | Form PCT/IPEA/416  |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Internatio                              | onal application No.   | International filing date (day)                              | /month/year) Prio        | ority date (day/month/year)  |
| PCT/                                    | /EP2004/009963   | 07.09.2004   | 2                        | 6.09.2003  |
| Internation                             | onal Patent Classification (IPC) or nati                                       | onal classification and IPC                                  |                          |  |
| G06F                                    | K17/00, G06K9/64,  | OOOKOIOO   |                          |  |
|   | ,  |  |                          |  |
| Applicant SIEM                          | TENS AKTIENGESELL:   | SCHAFT   |                          |  |
|   | This report is the international prelinunder Article 35 and transmitted to the | -  | •                        | ational Preliminary Examining Authority  |
| 2.                                      | This REPORT consists of a total of   | 5  | _ sheets, including this | cover sheet.   |
| 3.                                      | This report is also accompanied by A   | NNEXES, comprising:  |                          |  |
|   | a. (sent to the applicant and  | to the International Bureau) a                               | total of 2               | sheets, as follows:  |
|   |  |  |                          | led and are the basis for this report and/or .16 and Section 607 of the Administrative |
|   | 1 1  |  | •                        | s contain an amendment that goes beyond<br>em 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental      |
|   | b. (sent to the International)   | Bureau only) a total of (indica                              | te type and number of e  | lectronic carrier(s))  |
|   | <b>_</b> ,   | ,  | ••                       |  |
|   | related thereto, in computer<br>Section 802 of the Administ                    | •  |                          | ontaining a sequence listing and/or tables al Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see    |
| 4.                                      | This report contains indications relati  | ng to the following items:                                   |                          |  |
|   | Box No. I Basis of the   | report   |                          |  |
|   | Box No. II Priority  |  |                          |  |
|   | Box No. III Non-establi  | shment of opinion with regard                                | to novelty, inventive st | ep and industrial applicability  |
|   | Box No. IV Lack of uni   | ty of invention  |                          |  |
|   | BOX 110. V   | atement under Article 35(2) wed explanations supporting such |                          | ventive step or industrial applicability;  |
|   | Box No. VI Certain doc   | uments cited   |                          |  |
|   | Box No. VII Certain defe   | ects in the international applica                            | ition                    |  |
|   | Box No. VIII Certain obs   | ervations on the international a                             | pplication               |  |
| Date of submission of the demand        |  |  | f completion of this rep | ort  |
|   |  |  |                          |  |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP |  |  | rized officer            |  |
| Foodiwil-                               | . No   | T-11   | nana Na                  |  |

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/009963

| Box | No. I       | I Basis of the report   |                                     |             |   |
|-----|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1.  |             | h regard to the language, this report is based on the internationated under this item.  | onal application in the language in | which it    | was filed, unless otherwise                     |
|     |             | This report is based on translations from the original language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purport international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))  publication of the international application (Rule 12.4) | oses of:                            |             | ·   |
|     |             | international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and  |                                     |             |   |
| 2.  | rece        | h regard to the <b>elements</b> of the international application, this eiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are report):  the international application as originally filed/furnished the description:           |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | pages   |                                     | 14 07       | as originally filed/furnished .2005 with letter |
|     |             | pages* 1  | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     |             | pages*  | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     | $\boxtimes$ | the claims:   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | nos.  |                                     |             | as originally filed/furnished                   |
|     |             | nos.*   | as amended (togethe                 | r with an   | y statement) under Article 19                   |
|     |             | nos.* _ 1-4   | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     |             | nos.*   | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     | $\boxtimes$ | the drawings:   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | sheets 1/1  |                                     |             | as originally filed/furnished                   |
|     |             | sheets*   | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     |             | sheets*   | received by this Authority on       |             |   |
|     |             | a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplement   | nental Box Relating to Sequence L   | isting.     |   |
| 3.  |             | The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:  |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the description, pages  |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the claims, nos.  |                                     |             |   |
|     |             |   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the sequence listing (specify):   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             |   |                                     |             |   |
| 4.  |             | This report has been established as if (some of) the amend<br>they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as fi   | lments annexed to this report and   | l listed be | elow had not been made, since                   |
|     |             | the description, pages  |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the claims, nos.  |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the drawings, sheets/figs   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | the sequence listing (specify):   |                                     |             |   |
|     |             | any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify):   |                                     |             |   |
| *   | If ite      | em 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "sup  | erseded."                           |             |   |

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/009963

| Box | No. V Reasoned statemen            | it under Ar | ticle 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; |     |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------------|---|-----|
|     | citations and expla                | nations sur | porting such statement  |     |
|     | •                                  |             | 1 8   |     |
| 1.  | Statement                          |             |   |     |
|     |                                    |             |   |     |
|     | Novelty (N)                        | Claims      | 1 - 4   | YES |
|     |                                    | Claims      |   |     |
|     |                                    | Claims      |   | NO  |
|     |                                    |             |   |     |
|     | I and the standard                 |             | 1 4   |     |
|     | Inventive step (IS)                | Claims      | 1-4   | YES |
|     |                                    | cu :        |   | 210 |
|     |                                    | Claims      |   | NO  |
|     |                                    |             |   |     |
|     | Industrial applicability (IA)      | Claims      | 1 - 4   | YES |
|     |                                    | Claims      |   | 1E3 |
|     |                                    | Claims      |   | NO  |
|     |                                    |             |   |     |
|     |                                    |             |   |     |
| 2.  | Citations and explanations (Rule 7 | 70.7)       |   |     |

- 1 Reference is made to the following documents:
  - D1: US-A-5 770 841 (MOED MICHAEL C ET AL)
    23 June 1998 (1998-06-23)
  - D2: US-B1-6 557 758 (MONICO DOMINICK L)
    6 May 2003 (2003-05-06)
- 2.1 Document D1 discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document) a method for generating random test samples for optimising automatic optical readers for inscriptions on mail items (see column 2, lines 32 38), from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that in addition to the optical reading, the contents of wireless-readable electronic memory units located on or in the mail item are read and the data indicating the destination address is stored as destination address scheduled data together with the captured image of the surface of the mail item if the destination address information has been identified and read from a memory unit.
- 2.2 The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

| Box No. V | Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |  |  |
|-----------|---|--|--|
|           | Article 33(2)).   |  |  |
|           |   |  |  |
| 3         | The current invention can be considered to address  |  |  |
|           | the problem of implementing a method which allows   |  |  |
|           | reliable, accurate distribution of mail items even  |  |  |
|           | when the inscription on the mail item is unclear.   |  |  |
| 4.1       | The solution to this problem as proposed in   |  |  |
|           | claim 1 of the present application involves an  |  |  |
|           | inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)) for the  |  |  |
|           | following reasons:  |  |  |
| 4.2       | In order to solve the problem mentioned under   |  |  |
|           | point 3 of reliably distributing mail items,  |  |  |
|           | document D1 discloses the reading of a barcode  |  |  |
|           | that contains the mail inscription in an encoded  |  |  |
|           | format as well as the mail inscription itself.  |  |  |
|           | The valid mail inscription ("destination address  |  |  |
|           | scheduled data") is determined from both sets of  |  |  |
|           | information and is stored in a database.  |  |  |
|           | In contrast, in the claimed method not only the   |  |  |
|           | valid mail inscription ("destination address  |  |  |
|           | scheduled data"), but also the corresponding,   |  |  |
|           | possibly unclear mail inscription, is stored in a   |  |  |
|           | database. Based on these database entries, the  |  |  |
|           | address reader system can be continuously adapted   |  |  |
|           | so as to be able to extract accurate information  |  |  |
|           | even from unclear mail inscriptions.  |  |  |
|           | Document D1 does not contain any information  |  |  |
|           | regarding the joint storage of both mail items in   |  |  |

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|           | PC1/EP2004/009963   |
|-----------|---|
| Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article $35(2)$ with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
|           | a database. Nor does D1 suggest such a method   |
|           | step.   |
|           |   |
| 4.3       | Document D2 shows a goods package provided with an  |
|           | RFID tag, by means of which the goods package is  |
|           | distributed to the destination address. The   |
|           | package also includes a mail inscription, which   |
|           | allows a mail distributor to monitor the mail   |
|           | delivery process.   |
|           |   |
|           | D2 does not indicate or suggest the storing of  |
|           | both sets of information, the RFID tag information  |
|           | and the mail inscription, in a common database.   |
|           |   |
| 5         | Claims 2 - 4 are dependent on claim 1 and   |
|           | therefore likewise meet the PCT requirements for  |
|           | novelty and inventive step.   |
|           |   |
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|           |   |